

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1 - 6.

Please add new Claims 7 - 9 as follows.

17.

A lighted computer keyboard comprising:

a keyboard housing;

a plurality of key members constructed of a substantially hard non-deformable material, said key members depressably positioned within said keyboard housing, said plurality of key members also including at least twenty-six key members having letters displayed thereon;

an elastic diaphragm underlying said key members for biasing said key members in an upward direction;

a circuit board underlying said plurality of key members and said elastic diaphragm, said circuit board being operational to produce signals in response to depression of said key members; and

A2  
contd

a luminescent planar sheet for producing light, said luminescent planar sheet positioned between said plurality of key members and said elastic diaphragm, and being optically connected to said key members so as to permit the transmission of light to at least some of said plurality of key members, said luminescent planar sheet also including a plurality of holes underlying said key members for permitting said key members to engage said elastic diaphragm.

24. A lighted computer keyboard comprising:

a keyboard housing;

a plurality of key members constructed of a substantially hard non-deformable material, said key members depressably positioned within said keyboard housing, said plurality of key members also including at least twenty-six key members having letters displayed thereon;

a substantially translucent elastic diaphragm underlying said key members for biasing said key members in an upward direction;

a circuit board underlying said plurality of key members and said elastic diaphragm, said circuit board being operational to produce signals in response to depression of said key members; and

A2  
contd

a luminescent planar sheet for producing light, said luminescent planar sheet underlying said key members and said elastic diaphragm, and being positioned between said elastic diaphragm and said circuit board, said luminescent planar sheet being optically connected to said key members so as to permit the transmission of light to at least some of said plurality of key members.

3. A lighted computer keyboard comprising:

a keyboard housing;

a plurality of key members constructed of a substantially hard non-deformable material, said key members depressably positioned within said keyboard housing, said plurality of key members also including at least twenty-six key members having letters displayed thereon;

a substantially translucent elastic diaphragm underlying said key members for biasing said key members in an upward direction;

a substantially translucent circuit board underlying said plurality of key members and said elastic diaphragm, said circuit board being operational to produce signals in response to depression of said key members; and

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a luminescent planar sheet for producing light, said luminescent planar sheet underlying said key members, said elastic diaphragm and said circuit board, said luminescent planar sheet being optically connected to said key members so as to permit the transmission of light to at least some of said plurality of key members.

#### EXPLANATORY COMMENTS REGARDING NEW CLAIMS

New Claims 7 - 9 are directed to preferred constructions of the lighted keyboard of Applicant's invention, and are significantly narrower than the original claims in this case. In addition, the claims include additional language clarifying that Applicant's invention is directed to a keyboard for typing including twenty-six keys having letters displayed thereon, as opposed to a keypad typically used for activating alarm systems, calculators, telephones, and television remote controls upon which one cannot type and which typically only include command keys and keys including the numbers 0 - 10.

More particularly, Applicant has amended the claims to reflect that the keyboard includes at least twenty-six key members having letters displayed thereon. This amendment is believed sufficient to clarify that the keyboard of the present direction is intended for use in connection with typing, and to differentiate it from the keypads of the prior art. However, if the Examiner so chooses, Applicant is willing to further amend the claims to reflect that the keyboard is a "qwerty" keyboard. As understood by those skilled in the art, and as defined in *Newton's Telecom Dictionary*, "qwerty" is "the name for a computer or

typewriter keyboard. It got its name from the left side, top row of letter keys which spell 'qwerty'. Meanwhile, the *American Heritage Dictionary* defines "qwerty" as "of, relating to, or designating the traditional configuration of typewriter or computer keyboard keys". No new matter would be added by this amendment as the drawings and specification clearly describe the preferred embodiments of the invention being in connection with conventional typewriter and computer keyboards.

Applicant has also amended the claims to reflect that the key members are constructed of substantially hard nondeformable material which are depressable within the keyboard housing. This amendment was made to clarify that the key members operate in conventional manner for a typewriter or computer keyboard, and do not have a construction similar to keypad membrane switches which have a deformable upper key surface. If the Examiner so chooses, Applicant is willing to use the conventional language in the art for such computer keyboard key members, amending the claims to reflect that the key members are "non-tactile logic level switches", as opposed to the "tactile logic level switches" of membrane switches.